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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes in the Latin America and Caribbean region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the one-year extensions of the UNFPA country programmes for Cuba and Mexico, and the two-year extension of the country programme for Colombia.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for second one-year extensions or requests for two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the one-year country programme extensions for Cuba and Mexico, as indicated in table 1, and approve the two-year extension for Colombia, as indicated in table 2.

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Table 1

One-year country programme extensions approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Year proposed for extension*	*Explanation*		
			United Nations harmonization	*In-country political development*	*Implementation and/or other issues*
Cuba	2008-2012	2013	The United Nations country team in Cuba will extend the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2008-2012, for an additional year (2013). This will be done to ensure its alignment with the new national priorities and policies of the Government. In compliance with United Nations harmonization, the country programmes of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF will also be extended by an additional year (2013), in order to align them to the extended UNDAF.	The United Nations country team in Cuba has extended the current UNDAF (2008-2012) for one year, through 2013, in order to ensure alignment of the UNDAF with the recently approved economic and social policies of the Government.	The 2011 final evaluation of the UNFPA country programme provides an adequate framework for implementing UNFPA-supported projects in Cuba for an additional year.

Table 1. (continued)

Country	*Original programme period*	*Year proposed for extension*	*Explanation*		
			United Nations harmonization	*In-country political development*	*Implementation and/or other issues*
Mexico	2008-2012	2013	The United Nations country team in Mexico has agreed to extend the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2008-2012 for one year, through 2013. The Government has also agreed to this extension. This extension is being undertaken so that the planning of the new cycle will coincide with that of the new government administration that will take office in December 2012, and with the national development plan that the new government is expected to design in 2013. UNFPA will also extend its country programme for one year, through 2013, in order to ensure its alignment with government planning processes during the 2014-2018 cycle.	The current administration came into power in 2006 and will conclude its work in 2012. The next presidential election will take place in July 2012, and the new administration will begin on 1 December 2012. The next administration is expected to adopt a new national development plan that the United Nations will take into account in developing the next UNDAF, which will be aligned with national priorities. The United Nations country team considers the alignment with the new government plan and public policies to be of critical importance.	The planning process of the next government cycle, as well as that of the United Nations system, will begin in 2012. The UNDAF, the UNFPA country programme and the country programme action plan planning processes will also begin in 2012 and continue into 2013, to ensure alignment with national priorities. The next programme cycle will begin in 2014.

Table 2
Two-year country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	*Original programme period*	*Year proposed for extension*	*Explanation*		
			United Nations harmonization	*In-country political development*	*Implementation and/or other issues*
Colombia	2008-2012	2013	In 2007, the United Nations country team and the Government of Colombia developed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2008-2012, based on the common country assessment. The UNDAF consists of humanitarian, development and human rights approaches to the challenges faced by Colombia. A new government was elected in 2010, and a national development plan, covering 2010 to 2014, was formulated. With the current government cycle ending in 2014, the United Nations country team decided to revise the current UNDAF and align it with the national development plan. The United Nations country team also extended the UNDAF for an additional two years (2013 and 2014), to coincide with the national development plan. The Government supported the revision and extension of the UNDAF through 2014.	Following the August 2010 presidential elections, and the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Colombia in June 2011, the President of Colombia reaffirmed the UNDAF focus areas: (a) poverty reduction; (b) sustainable development; (c) rule of law; and (d) peace and reconciliation. These areas of cooperation are aligned with the national development plan and the national agreements on prosperity signed between the United Nations and the Government. In 2011, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited several United Nations organizations, including UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, to conduct midterm reviews of their country programmes, with the purpose of aligning them with the priorities and objectives of the national development plan, 2010-2014.	In order to align its country programme with the UNDAF and the national development plan, and to ensure harmonization with other United Nations Development Group organizations, UNFPA seeks to extend its country programme by an additional two years, through 2014. In accordance with the 2011 midterm review of the UNFPA country programme, the UNDAF, and the midterm review of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2013, the UNFPA programme will continue to focus on: (a) universal access to reproductive health, with an emphasis on preventing adolescent pregnancies and attaining Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health; (b) supporting poverty reduction strategies, with an emphasis on data collection and use for developing plans and policies; and (c) promoting human rights, with an emphasis on gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence. UNFPA will also refine its geographical focus in accordance with local capacity-building needs, and will strengthen results-based management.